

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-11 are pending in the application, with claims 1 and 6 being the independent claims. Claim 1 has been amended and claims 2-11 have been added. No new matter is being introduced with this amendment.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,643,209 to Fugoso *et al.* Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the proximal and distal segments of the guidewire tubular member are formed of different materials and bonded together. The Fugoso '209 patent does not disclose proximal and distal segments of a guidewire tubular member formed of different materials and bonded together. Accordingly, the Fugoso '209 patent cannot anticipate independent claim 1 of the present application. Claims 2-5 depend from and add features to claim 1 and are allowable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

New Claims

New claims 6-11 recite a method of constructing a catheter. New independent claim 6 recites that proximal and distal segments of a guidewire tubular member are heat bonded together in conjunction with the bonding of the distal portion of the balloon to the proximal and distal segments. The Fugoso '209 patent does not disclose such a method. Claims 7-11 depend from claim 6 and add features thereto. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request allowance of new claims 6-11.

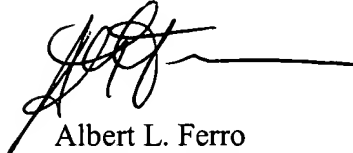
Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully
requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. Ferro', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Albert L. Ferro
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 44,679

Date: December 29, 2003

1100 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934
(202) 371-2600